

CLAIMS

1 1. A system for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced
2 manufacturing environment, comprising:
3 a manufacturing entity comprising:
4 a server executing a plurality of applications including an outsourced supply chain
5 tool for implementing supply chain execution processes;
6 a terminal in communication with said server via a communications link;
7 a data storage device in communication with said server via said communications
8 link;
9 a network link to a manufacturing division associated with said manufacturing
10 entity, said manufacturing division procuring assembled products from a contract
11 manufacturer pursuant to an agreement; and
12 a network link to a plurality of trading partner systems, said trading partner
13 systems including at least one each of:
14 a contract manufacturer system; and
15 a supplier system.

1 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a customer focus team system in communication with said manufacturing entity,
3 said customer focus team system associated with said contract manufacturer system.

1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a commodity team council system in communication with said manufacturing
3 entity, said commodity team council system associated with said supplier system.

1 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a decentralized file database for providing supply chain execution data specific to
3 said contract manufacturer system.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes include
2 implementing a preferred price protection plan generated via said outsourced supply
3 chain tool.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes includes
2 implementing a set of business rules for directing a trading partner to perform an activity,
3 said activity including:

4 directly procuring parts pursuant to a bid award;
5 executing a purchase order for directly procured parts; and
6 executing invoice and payment procedures for said directly procured parts.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes includes
2 executing an exception approval request form pursuant to a request to deviate from a
3 preferred sourcing strategy.

1 8. The system of claim 2, wherein said customer focus team system performs
2 administrative services for said contract manufacturing system.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein said administrative services include:
2 facilitating transfer and replenishment of components needed during manufacture;
3 ensuring ongoing inventory demand issues are addressed and resolved;
4 obtaining and providing metrics on outsourced supply chain parts and activities;
5 assisting said contract manufacturing system during shortfalls of supplies;
6 collaborating with said commodity team council systems relating to acquisition of
7 critical parts; and
8 providing assistance on matters related to import, export, and tax issues.

1 10. The system of claim 3, wherein said commodity team council system
2 provides administrative support to said supplier system.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said administrative support includes:
2 ensuring timely placement of purchase orders relating to supporting supplier
3 systems;
4 managing order books of said supporting supplier systems;
5 providing outsourced supply chain metrics relating to supply chain activities;
6 escalating shortfalls identified for inventories of said supplier systems;
7 assisting said customer focus team systems in acquiring critical parts;
8 facilitating replenishment implementation and drive to complete drop shipment
9 functions;
10 resolving finance issues;
11 visiting said supplier systems;
12 providing support for other outsourced supply chain regions on unique supplier
13 issues;
14 providing input on supplier report cards; and
15 interfacing with council chairs on contract issues, geographical allocations,
16 supplier credits, and letters to suppliers on transfers.

SUPPLY

1 12. A method for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced
2 manufacturing environment, said manufacturing environment including an original
3 equipment manufacturer, at least one supplier and at least one contract manufacturer,
4 comprising:

5 selecting a preferred price protection plan from a list of plan choices in response
6 to analysis and award of a contract manufacturing bid resulting in an agreement;

7 executing an outsourced supply chain tool for implementing said plan,
8 comprising:

9 placing a purchase order with a contract manufacturing entity in accordance with
10 said agreement via said outsourced supply chain tool;

11 filtering out parts listed on said purchase order flagged for special execution as
12 directed by said preferred price protection plan;

13 placing a second purchase order for flagged parts with a supplier designated by
14 said original equipment manufacturer, said second purchase order containing instructions
15 for providing said flagged parts to said contract manufacturer;

16 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for said flagged parts;

17 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for finished products;

18 monitoring associated activities of said original equipment manufacturer, said at
19 least one contract manufacturer, and said at least one supplier; and

20 resolving issues relating to said associated activities.

1 13. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code
2 for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced manufacturing environment, said
3 manufacturing environment including an original equipment manufacturer, at least one
4 contract manufacturer, and at least one supplier, the storage medium including
5 instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

6 selecting a preferred price protection plan from a list of plan choices in response
7 to analysis and award of a contract manufacturing bid resulting in an agreement;

8 executing an outsourced supply chain tool for implementing said plan,
9 comprising:

10 placing a purchase order with a contract manufacturing entity in accordance with
11 said agreement via said outsourced supply chain tool;

12 filtering out parts listed on said purchase order flagged for special execution as
13 directed by said preferred price protection plan;

14 placing a second purchase order for flagged parts with a supplier designated by
15 said original equipment manufacturer, said second purchase order containing instructions
16 for providing said flagged parts to said contract manufacturer;

17 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for said flagged parts;

18 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for finished products;

19 monitoring associated activities of said original equipment manufacturer, said at
20 least one contract manufacturer, and said at least one supplier; and

21 resolving issues relating to said associated activities.